



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Division of Forestry Firefighters Head West

Frankfort, Ky. (Aug. 23, 2013) – The Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) announced today that eight employees have volunteered to help the U.S. Forest Service battle wildfires in the western United States.

Today, two employees are heading to the Corral Complex fire in California, two are heading to the Drew Meadow fire in California and the fifth employee will report to the Eagle fire in Washington.

Three more KDF employees are awaiting an assignment from the Forest Service and will depart as soon as they receive it. "We are very proud of our employees who have volunteered for these dangerous assignments," said KDF Director Leah MacSwords. "One condition we have placed on our employees is they must return prior to October 1, which is the start of the fall forest fire hazard season here in Kentucky. While it is important to provide help where needed, we have to make sure we have all available resources to respond to wildfires in Kentucky."

The national fire danger level is now a Preparedness Level 5, the highest danger level. Firefighters from across the U.S. are assisting in battling wildfires in 10 western states. To see fire locations across the country, visit <http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/>.

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